FILED
FEB 6 1987
JOSEPH F. SPANIOL, JR.
CLERK

No. 86-1115

IN THE
Supreme Court of the United States
OCTOBER TERM, 1986

THE LOUISIANA LAND AND EXPLORATION COMPANY,
Petitioner,

v.

TEXACO, INC.,
Respondent.

On Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the Supreme Court of Louisiana

BRIEF AMICUS CURIAE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING IN SUPPORT OF PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI OF THE LOUISIANA LAND AND EXPLORATION COMPANY

JOSEPH B. MEYER
Attorney General

PETER J. MULVANEY *
Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002
(307) 777-7841

Counsel for Amicus Curiae State of Wyoming

* Counsel of Record

WILSON - EPES PRINTING CO., INC. - 789-0096 - WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

IN THE

Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1986

No. 86-1115

THE LOUISIANA LAND AND EXPLORATION COMPANY,
Petitioner,

v.

TEXACO, INC.,
Respondent.

On Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the Supreme Court of Louisiana

---

BRIEF AMICUS CURIAE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING IN SUPPORT OF PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI OF THE LOUISIANA LAND AND EXPLORATION COMPANY

THE STATE OF WYOMING submits this brief as amicus curiae in support of the petition for writ of certiorari of The Louisiana Land and Exploration Company.

INTEREST OF AMICUS CURIAE

Wyoming is a major natural gas producing state and has a substantial interest in how the federal Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978, 15 U.S.C. § 3301 *et seq.* (the "NGPA"), is interpreted and applied to the regulation of intrastate and interstate prices of natural gas.

ARGUMENT

Wyoming is a major producer of natural gas, and, as a result, its citizens are frequently before Wyoming or United States courts for resolution of disputes arising out of the price restrictions imposed by the NGPA. Often, vast economic consequences to the parties to these proceedings may result from a particular interpretation of the NGPA. The attendant impact on citizens and taxpayers of Wyoming and other lessors, including the State of Wyoming, may be momentous.

The question presented by this case is one of those bearing great significance for citizens of Wyoming. If the interpretation of the NGPA is upheld, it could cost all royalty owners, public and private, who are citizens of the State of Wyoming, millions of dollars. That there is substantial room for disagreement over this interpretation is evidenced by the fact that two lower Louisiana courts and a minority of the Louisiana Supreme Court had a very different view. Given the importance and uncertainty with respect to this issue, the State of Wyoming urges the United States Supreme Court to accept this case for review.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH B. MEYER
Attorney General

PETER J. MULVANEY *
Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002
(307) 777-7841
Counsel for Amicus Curiae
State of Wyoming

* Counsel of Record

February 6, 1987